



## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

### Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services

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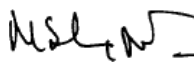


### Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities

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J. Luckey Welsh, Jr., FACHE, Director

April 19, 2010

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Operated Psychiatric Hospital and ADATC Medical Staff  
Emergency Department Physicians  
NC Hospital CEOs

**FROM:** J. Luckey Welsh, Jr., FACHE, Director   
Michael S. Lancaster, MD, Chief of Clinical Policy, DMH/DD/SAS   
Bill Pully, President, NCHA   
Michael Utecht, MD, FACEP, President, NCCEP 

**RE:** State-wide Medical Transfer Guidelines for State Operated Psychiatric Hospitals and Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centers (ADATCs)

Recently, a workgroup was formed to draft **Patient Transfer Guidelines** that are intended to operationalize the state-wide policy entitled Medical Clearance of Psychiatric and Addiction Disorders in the Emergency Department.

These guidelines were based on the most common areas that come up in the medical clearance process, especially those where abnormal lab values may not mean that the patient is not medically stable to be received by an inpatient psychiatric/ADATC facility.

The Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities, Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services, North Carolina Hospital Association, and North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians agree to support the attached guidelines which are for use by Emergency Departments transferring patients to North Carolina State Operated Psychiatric Hospitals and ADATCs. Dissemination and implementation of these guidelines are crucial to improving the process.

Immediate unresolved concerns regarding specific patient transfers should be directed first to the Facility Clinical Director and then to a Division level staff member.

Comments and concerns that arise in the implementation of these guidelines should be directed to [Susan.Saik@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Susan.Saik@dhhs.nc.gov).